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# *The President's Daily Brief*

*17 December 1971*

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# THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 December 1971

## PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Pakistan has not yet indicated how it will respond to the unilateral Indian cease-fire scheduled to go into effect this morning. Indian diplomats are denying any designs on Azad Kashmir at this time. *(Page 1)*

[redacted] 50X1

Peking [redacted] Moscow. *(Page 4)* 50X1

In Cambodia, Sirik Matak has reiterated his concern over Prime Minister Lon Nol's erratic handling of military affairs. *(Page 5)* 50X1

[redacted] North Korea [redacted] Japan [redacted] 50X1 0X1

[redacted] *(Page 6)* 50X1



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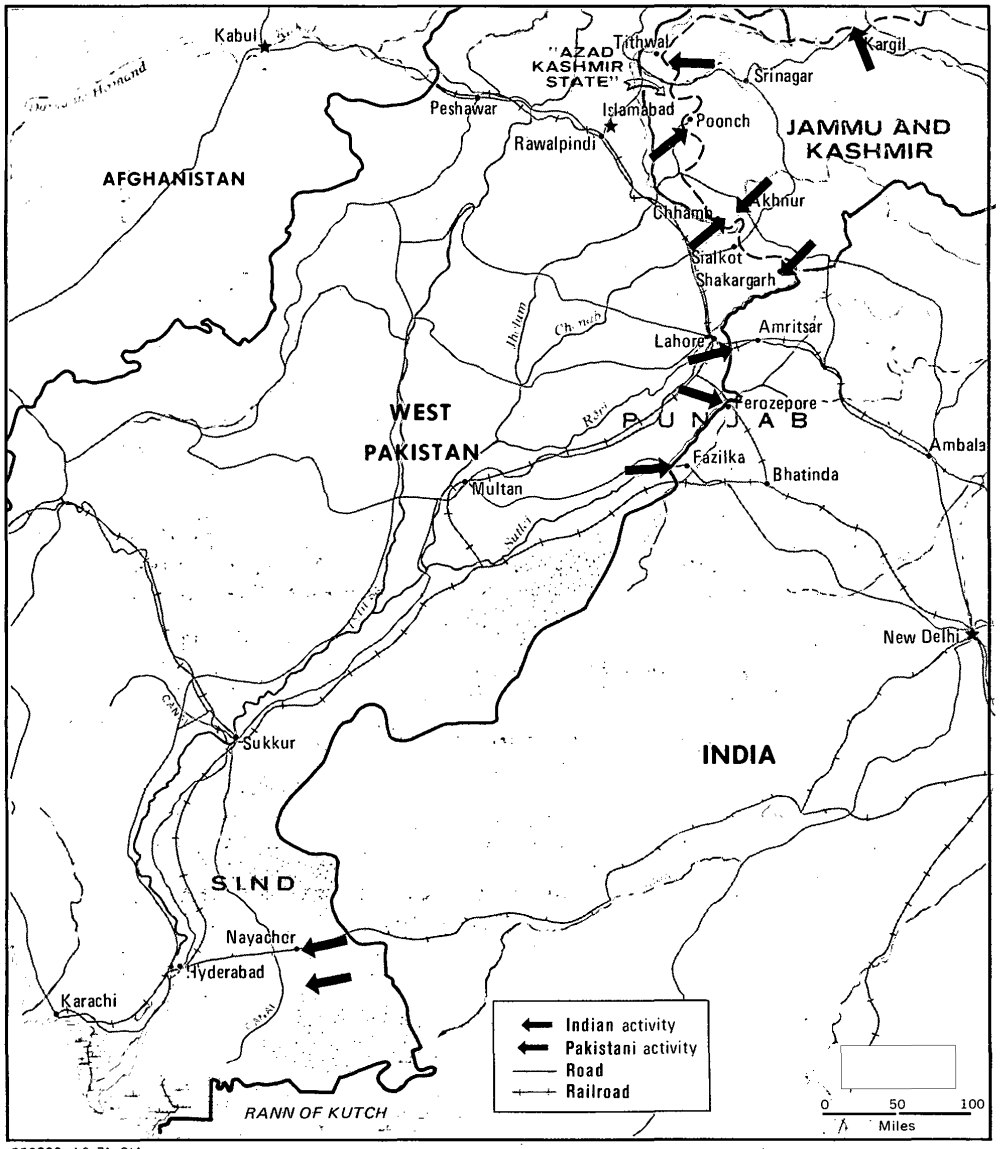


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## INDIA-PAKISTAN

Pakistan has not yet indicated whether it will stop fighting on the western front, where a unilateral Indian cease-fire is scheduled to go into effect at 9:30 a.m. EST today. Yesterday heavy fighting continued in the Sialkot sector, and the Pakistanis are massing troops and equipment, including one of their two armored divisions, just south of Lahore.

Indian diplomats have been indicating that they seek no territorial adjustments in Kashmir at this time. 50X1

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In the East, a few isolated Pakistani units in the countryside are still holding out following General Niazi's surrender in Dacca yesterday, and some heavy firing broke out near the US Consulate General today as Mukti Bahini moved through the commercial area. An Indian spokesman in New Delhi stated that the new Bangla Desh civil administration would take over today, although Indian forces would remain in the area indefinitely to help rehabilitate public utilities and repatriate refugees.

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Qazi Qaiyum, who has been the contact point between the exile government and US officials in Calcutta, has reiterated the concern of many Awami Leaguers lest India dominate an independent Bangla Desh. In Qaiyum's view, only Mujibur Rahman has the stature to lead Bangla Desh to a genuine independence.

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*The factionalism within the Bangla Desh movement can be expected to grow now that the common struggle for freedom from Islamabad's rule is over. Qaiyum speaks for the Awami League moderates who have dominated the exile government and who now seem apprehensive that without Mujib they may be destined to play second fiddle to Indian- and Soviet-backed leftists. Despite the Awami Leaguers' hopes, it is doubtful whether Mujib's supremacy could be fully restored were he released from prison, given his absence from the Bengali scene during the past nine months and New Delhi's efforts to ensure that the League does not monopolize control of the new state.*

* * *

China has strongly hinted to India that the surrender of the Pakistani Army in East Pakistan should now bring the war to an end.

--In an official statement issued yesterday, Peking for the first time accused India of wanting to "annihilate all of Pakistan."

--The Chinese also have lodged a protest accusing Indian troops of intruding into Chinese territory from Sikkim on 10 December for reconnaissance purposes.

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## USSR - COMMUNIST CHINA

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*Recent Soviet comments on the stalemated negotiations have been increasingly pessimistic, and it is possible that Moscow hopes to bring pressure on Peking to be more forthcoming in the territorial discussions. It is also possible that Moscow is deliberately seeking to make Peking uneasy about its northern border in order to underscore its warnings to the Chinese to stay clear of South Asia. Although Ilichev may stay away from the talks for some time--last winter he returned to the USSR for almost six weeks--it seems unlikely that Moscow wants to bear responsibility for collapse of the talks.*





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## CAMBODIA

In a conversation with Ambassador Swank on Wednesday, Sirik Matak reiterated his concern over Prime Minister Lon Nol's erratic handling of military affairs. He stressed his doubts that any long-term compromise can be worked out and contended that the present political impasse can be resolved only by Lon Nol's retirement. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1X1

[redacted] 50X1

> *Sirik Matak gave no indication in his talk with the ambassador that he or others intend to press their differences with Lon Nol or quit the government. The burden of his remarks was that he feels torn between loyalty to the prime minister and a belief that Lon Nol must be persuaded to step aside in the best interests of the country.*

Some Khmer Krom commanders, who have previously been among Lon Nol's staunchest supporters, are now joining in the criticism of the prime minister. Their complaints center on the government's lackluster performance in the Chenla II operation and in the fighting near Phnom Penh.

> *The Khmer Krom do not appear thus far to be casting about for alternative leadership. Their disenchantment with Lon Nol, however, adds a new volatile element to the unstable political situation, which could be drastically upset by any new battlefield reverses.*





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## NORTH KOREA - JAPAN

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